

## **Hearing Proceeds on Appeal of Vet's Suspension**

*Recommended order expected in February*

FRANKFORT, Ky. (Dec. 9, 2008) – Further proceedings were conducted today in veterinarian Rodney Stewart's appeal of his suspensions for allegedly violating medication regulations, and for failing to produce veterinary records that would assist in the investigation. The suspensions barred Stewart from treating horses on all race track properties licensed by the Kentucky Horse Racing Commission.

Dr. Stewart has not been issued a 2008 racing license by the KHRC, which is required to practice veterinary medication on race track properties. Should he decide to ever apply for a KHRC racing license, his application would be referred to the Commission's license review committee to determine his eligibility to receive any Kentucky racing license.

During the hearing in Lexington, Robert Watt, an attorney for the Kentucky Horse Racing Commission, said that Stewart has recently produced the records requested in August of 2007. As a result, it is possible that Chief Racing Steward John Veitch may lift the suspension for failure to comply with the request for the veterinary records. The other suspension, relating to items seized during a June 2007 search of three barns at Keeneland Race Course, has been stayed pending the outcome of Stewart's appeal. A state hearing officer said he expects to issue a recommended order to the Kentucky Horse Racing Commission in February.